

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): Oil and vacuum pumps group for an engine, comprising:

a ~~single~~monolithic motion transmission shaft extending along a main axis X-X;

at least one oil pump mounted on said monolithic motion transmission shaft coaxially to said main axis X-X;

at least one vacuum pump mounted on said monolithic motion transmission shaft coaxially to said main axis X-X;

a gear mounted on said monolithic motion transmission shaft coaxially to said main axis X-X and adapted to derive a rotary motion from a driving gear of an engine and to transfer said rotary motion to said monolithic motion transmission shaft to drive said at least one oil pump and said at least one vacuum pump;

wherein the oil and vacuum pumps group is structurally independent from and adapted to be associated with said engine.

2. (previously presented): Oil and vacuum pumps group according to claim 1, wherein said at least one oil pump and said at least one vacuum pump are units which are structurally independent from each other.

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented): Oil and vacuum pumps group according to claim 1, wherein said at least one oil pump is a single-stage or two-stage pump.

5. (previously presented): Oil and vacuum pumps group according to claim 1, comprising means for the attachment to an engine block.

6. (previously presented): Oil and vacuum pumps group according to claim 5, wherein said means for the attachment to an engine block comprises a plurality of brackets intended to cooperate with respective brackets formed on said engine block.

7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended): Method for assembling an oil and vacuum pumps group for an engine, comprising:

- a) providing only one ~~single~~ monolithic motion transmission shaft extending along a main axis X-X;
- b) providing at least one oil pump;
- c) providing at least one vacuum pump;

- d) providing a gear;
- e) mounting said gear said at least one oil pump and said at least one vacuum pump on said monolithic motion transmission shaft coaxially to said main axis X-X, so as to define a group which is structurally independent from and adapted to be associated with said engine.

9. (previously presented): An engine, comprising an oil and vacuum pumps group according to claim 1.

10. (currently amended): Method according to claim 8, wherein mounting said gear, said at least one oil pump and said at least one vacuum pump on said monolithic motion transmission shaft comprises positioning said gear between said at least one oil pump and said at least one vacuum pump.

11. (currently amended): Oil and vacuum pumps group according to claim 1, wherein said gear is operatively placed on the monolithic motion transmission shaft between said at least one oil pump and said at least one vacuum pump.